Message Text

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PAGE 01 DURBAN 00287 101311Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /067 W

-----111150Z 114351 /44

R 101225Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL DURBAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2570
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY MASERU

UNCLAS DURBAN 0287

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

EO 11652: NA TAGS: PINT, SF

SUBJ: SAG MINISTER ATTACKS NATAL "TURNHALLE" PROPOSAL

REF: DURBAN 255, 267

1. SAG MINISTER OF FINANCE, SENATOR OWEN HORWOOD, HAS PROVIDED A FIRST HIGH-LEVEL REACTION TO NATAL'S BID FOR GREATER PROVINCIAL AUTONOMY UNDER A "TURNAHALLE"-TYPE SYSTEM. ADDRESSING A NATIONAL PARTY FUNCTION IN NATAL ON MAY 7, HORWOOD BRANDED THE NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL'S INITIATIVE AS AN ATTEMPT AT SECESSION FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND "BEGINNING OF BLACK MAJORITY RULE." WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY PRAISING RESULTS OF THE TURNHALLE CONFERENCE IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA, HORWOOD SAID NATAL WOULD NOT GET AWAY WITH "NONSENSE". HE ADDED THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD A UNITARY SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT FORMED ON THE BASIS OF THE 1910 ACT OF UNION, TO WHICH THE NATAL PROPOSALS WERE CONTRARY. UNCLASSIFIED

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2. REPLYING, SENIOR UP NATAL LEADER FRANK MARTIN SAID NATAL WOULD IGNORE HORWOOD'S COMMENT SINCE THE ISSUE HAD BEEN REFERRED BY THE NATAL PROVINCIAL COUNCIL TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND NOT SENATOR HORWOOD. MARTIN CRITICIZED HORWOOD'S LOGIC IN ACCEPTING THE TURNHALLE RESULTS IN SWA AND REJECTING SIMILAR MOVES BY NATAL. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IF THE 1910 ACT OF

UNION IS THE BASIS OF SOUTH AFRICA'S POLITICAL STRUCTURE, THERE WAS CLEARLY NO THOUGH THEN OF HOMELANDS, THE CENTRALIZATION OF POWERS INCLUDING TAXING POWERS IN THE SAG, OR A MOVE AWAY FROM THE WESTMINSTER SYSTEM WHICH HE ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF PLANNING.FARBER

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Message Attributes

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Subject: SAG MINISTER ATTACKS NATAL \"TURNHALLE\" PROPOSAL

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, SF, (HORWOOD, OWEN)

To: STATE Type: TE

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